

Message Text

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43

ACTION NEA-09

INFO OCT-01 EUR-12 ISO-00 A-01 OPR-02 SY-05 SCCT-01 AID-05

PM-03 H-02 INR-07 L-02 NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-01 PRS-01

SP-02 SS-15 USIA-06 /080 W
----- 074054

P R 181310Z APR 75

FM AMEMBASSY BEIRUT

TO SECSTATE WASHDC PRIORITY 3952

DIA WASHDC

CIA WASHDC

INFO AMEMBASSY AMMAN

AMEMBASSY ANKARA

AMEMBASSY ATHENS

AMEMBASSY CAIRO

AMEMBASSY DAMASCUS

AMEMBASSY LONDON

AMEMBASSY PARIS

AMEMBASSY ROME

AMEMBASSY TEHRAN

AMEMBASSY TEL AVIV

USCINCEUR VAIHINGEN GER

C O N F I D E N T I A L BEIRUT 4996

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PINS, LE, PLO

SUBJECT: SECURITY SITUATION EDGES TOWARD NORMAL IN BEIRUT;
TRIPOLI REMAINS TROUBLED

REF: BEIRUT 4947

1. CONDITIONS IN BEIRUT CONTINUED TO IMPROVE GENERALLY
THROUGH MORN APRIL 18 WITH BOTH OFFICIAL AND UNOFFICIAL
CIRCLES MORE OPTIMISTIC. SEVERAL INCIDENTS WERE REPORTED IN
PARTS OF TOWN NIGHT/EARLY MORNING OF APRIL 17/18 AND OCCASIONAL
SNIPING IN AREAS OF INTENSE ACTIVITY DURING RECENT FIGHTING.
ALL RPT ALL ROADS INTO BEIRUT, WITH EXCEPTION THAT SKIRTING
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TEL ZAATAR REFUGEE CAMP, ARE NOW OPEN. POCKET OF INCIDENTS AT

NORTHERN (QUARANTINA) APPROACH TO CITY, WHICH CONTINUED UNTIL MID-DAY APRIL 17, NOW UNDER CONTROL.

2. REMAINDER OF COUNTRY, WITH EXCEPTION OF TRIPOLI, APPARENTLY QUIET. IN TRIPOLI, SOME SKIRMISHES EVIDENTLY INVOLVING PRIMARILY CHRISTIAN AND MUSLIM LEBANESE OCCURRED APRIL 17 AND MAY HAVE RESUMED TODAY, BUT WE HAVE NO RPT NO RELIABLE UP-TO-DATE INFO. OVERNIGHT, THREE FRENCH TOURISTS TRANSITING TRIPOLI FROM SYRIA TO BEIRUT CAME UNDER FIRE AT ROADBLOCK. ONE KILLED, ANOTHER SEVERELY WOUNDED.

3. ALL RPT ALL AMCITS IN COUNTRY SAFE, ACCORDING OUR MOST RECENT INFO. ONE REASSURING ASPECT OF CRISIS TO DATE HAS BEEN NEAR ABSENCE OVERT ANTI-AMERICAN TONE AND RELATIVE RESTRAINT OF PARTIES IN SUGGESTING US ROLE IN INCIDENTS.
GODLEY

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